

Remarks

Claims 1 and 3-23 are pending. Claims 1, 4-12, 14-16 and 22-23 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicant's invention.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3-5, 8-15 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,124,810 ("Segal") in view of U.S. Patent 5,668,543 ("Jones"), and rejected Claims 6-7, 18 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Segal, in view of Jones and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,959,577 ("Fan"). The Examiner states, in pertinent parts:

Regarding claim 1, Segal discloses an alert generating method [figs. 1-2] comprising:

- providing to a mobile unit (108) over a wireless network (106) information (206) that identifies conditions for an alert [figs. 1-4, col.9, lines 44-46];
- monitoring in the mobile unit position (108) a position of the mobile unit [col. 9, line 66 to col. 10, line 5];
- providing the service center (102) a signal [col. 10, lines 10-27].

Segal fails to specifically disclose the alerting a designated location from the service center upon receiving the signal. However, Segal does disclose the alerting signals from the mobile vehicle (108) to the dispatch center (102) for informing or determining the status of the vehicle in transit such as the vehicle has arrived or departed from a planned or unplanned stop [col.4, lines 57-62 and col.10, lines 10-27]. Furthermore, Jones discloses an advance notification system (10) could send an alert message such as "the bus will be arrive / late in five minutes" from a base station (14) to the designated location such as student homes / passenger location (36) in response to the signal from a mobile unit / pick up vehicle / bus (12) by a wireless communication which is used for communications and tracking systems that track the location, movement and destination of vehicles or individuals [figs.1,4 col.3, lines 1-34, col.10, lines 15-24 and abstract]. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have the system of Segal as taught by Jones for notifying or alerting the customer the time for goods delivery or pickup at any desired location.

* * *

Regarding claims 6-7, Both Segal/Jones do not specifically disclose the alerting signal wherein providing that identifies the conditions for the alert, comprises downloading the information / destination list to a web site corresponding to the service center. However, Fan provides the concept of using the wireless network (27) such as the web site Internet can be downloaded to the vehicle location service (3) or can be loaded directly from software storage media (32) for locating and traveling information includes a map database search system and a G.P.S. wireless communication system (8) [fig.1, col.5, lines 53-61 col.6, lines 34-61]. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use Fan's technique in Segal / Jones invention for providing accurate delivery information to the mobile unit that track location, movement and destination of vehicle or individual.

Regarding claim 18, Fan discloses a wireless device is a wireless modem (146) [fig. 5, col. 10, lines 6-8].

Regarding claim 23, Please see claims 6-7.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. As amended, Claim 1 recites:

providing a server on a wide area network that allows a user to specify conditions for an alert and an action to be carried out when the conditions for the alert are met, the conditions referencing a position of a mobile unit;

As explained in Applicant's Specification, at page 6, lines 24-29, allowing a user to manage the destination list over a wide area network (e.g., the Internet), alert conditions and contact information in a destination list can be modified by one or more users even after a rover is en route. Neither these above-quoted limitations, nor their attendant benefits, are disclosed or suggested by Segal, Jones or Fan. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 and dependent Claims 3-15 are each allowable over Segal, Jones and Fan, individually and in any combination. Similarly, as amended, Claim 22 recites:

wherein the service center comprises a server that permits access to the service center over the wide area network for

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setting the designated location to which the alerting device sends the alert and the conditions for the alert ...

Thus, for the reasons already discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Applicant submits that Claims 22-23 are likewise allowable over Segal, Jones and Fox, individually or in any combination. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 3-15, 22 and 23 are therefore requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 16-17 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segal in view of U.S. Patent 5,444,444 ("Ross"), and Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Segal, in view of Jones and further in view of Fan. With respect to Claims 16-17, the Examiner states:

Regarding claims 16-17, Segal discloses the mobile unit comprising:

- a location system (212) / G.P.S. system (106) [figs.1-2, col.4, lines 1-12 and col.5, lines 52-65];
- a wireless device (200,202,206) is installed in a vehicle (108) linking with a service center (102) over a wireless network (106) [figs. 1-2, col.4, lines 1-12 and col.5, lines 23-39];
- a control circuit (200,202,206) including a user interface (214) [fig. 2, col. 5, lines 22-51 and col.14, lines 53-64];
- a control circuit (200,202,206) is installed in the vehicle (108) receives a destination list / "load assignment" from the services center (102) [figs. 1-2, col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 12 and lines 24-62];
- the control circuit (200,202,206) determines a current destination from the destination list, automatically activates the location system to determine a current location of the mobile unit, determines whether the mobile unit has crossed a threshold relating to the current destination, and activate the wireless device to send an alert signal if the mobile unit has crossed the threshold [fig. 2, col. 4, lines 57-62 and col. 10, lines 1-17].

Segal fails to specifically mention the user interface allows a user / operator to edit the destination list received from the control circuit. However, Segal does teach the vehicle operator

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may delete any reference to the erroneous departure determination in memory (204) by I/O device / interface (214) [fig.2, col.14, lines 53-64]. Furthermore, Ross discloses a control circuit (10) including a user interface / keyboard (12) which allows a user to edit the destination list received can be utilized in a mobile vehicle or carrier is equipped with a satellite receiver, a controller and a communicator. The controller compares the current location of the vehicle to the location of the party receiving the delivery / pickup [figs.2-3, col.5, lines 33-45]. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art was made to employ the system of Segal as taught by Ross for allowing a vehicle operator a capability to adjust the delivery schedule.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. As amended, Claim 16 recites:

a control circuit including a user interface, wherein (1) the control circuit receives a destination list from the service center over the wireless connection, (2) the user interface allows a user to edit the destination list received and to select a current destination from the destination list, and (3) the control circuit sends a message to inform the service center of the current destination, automatically activates the location system to determine a current location of the mobile unit, determines whether the mobile unit has crossed a threshold relating to the current destination, and activates the wireless device to send an alert signal if the mobile unit has crossed the threshold.

(emphasis added)

As explained in Applicant's Specification, beginning at page 7, line 30 to page 8, line 9, by allowing the user of the mobile unit to select the next destination, local traffic conditions or other conditions which cannot be anticipated from the service center can be accommodated. In addition, because the current destination is confirmed with the service center by means of a message, an updated destination list can be made available by the service center having a server accessible over a wide area network, such as discussed above with respect to Claim 1. In contrast, as discussed at Ross's col. 4, line 50 to col. 5, line 5 and at col. 6, line 45-63, Ross teaches detecting the next destination by comparing the current location against all the possible destinations in sequence:

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If deliveries remain on the schedule, the controller 10 compares the location of the delivery vehicle to the delivery location for each package to be delivered in sequence. The controller 10 first accesses the data storage device 16 to determine if the recipient of that particular delivery has already been notified 50 of the pending delivery of the item. If the recipient has already been notified of delivery, the controller 10 considers the next delivery in sequence of deliveries.

Otherwise, the controller 10 compares 52 the location of the delivery vehicle to the delivery location. The controller 10 then determines an estimated time of arrival at that delivery location. ... If the period 54 for the estimated time of arrival is greater than a predetermined interval, the controller 10 repeats 46 the analysis for the next delivery in the sequence of deliveries.

* * *

The controller 10 compares the location of the bus to the location of the school bus stops in sequence. The controller 10 then determines the estimated time of arrival at the particular bus stop being evaluated. ...

If the period before the estimated time of arrival at the bus stop is greater than a predetermined interval, the controller 10 repeats the analysis for the next bus stop in sequence in the route. ...

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 16 and dependent Claims 17-21 are allowable over Segal, Ross, Jones and Fan, individually and in combination. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 16-21 are therefore respectfully requested.

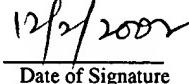
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Therefore, all pending claims (i.e., Claims 1 and 3-23) are allowable over the art of record. If the Examiner has any question regarding the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant at 408-392-9250.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 3, 2002.



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Appendix

Please amend Claims 1, 4-12, 14-15 and 22-23 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An alert generating method, comprising:

providing a server on a wide area network that allows a user to specify conditions for an alert and an action to be carried out when the conditions for the alert are met, the conditions referencing a position of a mobile unit;

providing to [a] the mobile unit over a wireless network service connection [information that identifies] the conditions for [an] the alert, the wireless network service connection linking the mobile unit and a service center over [a] the wide area network;

monitoring in the mobile unit [a position of] the mobile unit's position;

providing the service center a signal indicating that the conditions for [an] the alert are satisfied; and

alerting a designated location by carrying out the specified action from the service center upon receiving the signal.

4. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the [alerting] specified action comprises telephoning the designated location.

5. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the [alerting] specified action comprises sending e-mail to the designated location.

6. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein providing [the information that identifies] the conditions for the alert[,] comprises downloading information from the service center to the mobile unit.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising downloading a destination list, including [the] information that identifies the conditions for the alert, to the mobile unit from a web site corresponding to the service center.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [the information that identifies] the conditions [identifies] identify an area around a destination for the mobile unit.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein [the information that identifies] the conditions indicate[s] that the alert should be generated when the mobile unit enters the area around the destination.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein [the information that identifies] the conditions indicate[s] that the alert should be generated when the mobile unit leaves the area around the destination.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein [the information includes] the area around the destination is provided to the mobile unit as a location and a threshold radius that respectively correspond to a center and a radius of the area surrounding the destination.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting a selected destination for the mobile unit, wherein [the information that identifies] the conditions for the alert[,] require[s] that the selected destination be a destination that is identified in the [information] conditions.

14. (Three Times Amended) A delivery method comprising:

creating a list of destinations for deliveries at a service center, the list including a threshold distance for one or more destinations for which an alert should be generated;

providing a mechanism accessible over a wide area network for users related to the destinations to specify actions to be carried out when the alert is generated;

downloading a portion of the list of destinations to a mobile unit installed in a delivery vehicle, the downloading being effectuated over a wireless network connection which links the mobile unit to the service center over a wide area network;

selecting a destination from the list as a next destination for a delivery vehicle;

monitoring distance between the delivery vehicle and the selected destination;

generating [an] the alert from the delivery vehicle when the distance is less than a threshold distance;

receiving the alert at the service center; and

[sending a message] carrying out the specified action from the service center to the selected destination in response to the alert received at the service center.

15. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein [generating the alert] comprises[:]

sending a message from the delivery vehicle to the service center, the message including a tag identifying the destination[;

looking-up a designated location that corresponds to the destination; and

sending the alert from the service center to the designated location].

16. (Three Times Amended) A mobile unit comprising:

a location system;

a wireless device linking the mobile unit with a service center over a wireless network connection of a wide area network; and

a control circuit including a user interface, wherein (1) the control circuit receives a destination list from the service center over the wireless connection, (2) the user interface allows a user to edit the destination list received and to select a current destination from the destination list, and (3) the control circuit [determines a current destination from the destination list] sends a message to inform the service center of the current destination, automatically activates the location system to determine a current location of the mobile unit, determines whether the mobile unit has crossed a threshold relating to the current destination, and activates the wireless device to send an alert signal if the mobile unit has crossed the threshold.

22. (Twice Amended) A system comprising:

a data connection to a wide area network;

an alerting device; and

a service center connected to the data connection to enable receipt of messages from a mobile unit over a wireless network connection and connected to the alerting device to enable the service center to activate the alerting device and send alerts, the service center maintaining contact information for the mobile unit, wherein the service

center comprises a server that permits access to the service center over the wide area network for setting the designated location to which the alerting device sends the alert and the conditions for the alert, and wherein

in response to a signal from the mobile unit, the service center activates the alerting device to send an alert to a designated location identified in the contact information.

23. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein [the service center comprises a server that permits internet access to the service center for setting of the designated location to which the alerting device sends the alert] the wide area network includes the internet, and wherein the server is accessed by a web browser.

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